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## THE "RULING PASSION."

Some years ago, in the flag-ship at Bermuda, a seaman was employed in painting some part of that vessel; the paint, which was white-lead, had been mixed with a proportion of rum, as a substitute for spirits of turpentine, as a drying liquid: at the close of the day, when the work had been finished, the man who had performed it, could not resist the temptation of draining the remaining liquid from the pot, and although he must have been sensible of its deleterious quality, as being impregnated with poisonous matter, he drank it off, and very shortly after paid the forfeit of his life for the rash act. On inspection it was found that the stomach had not been affected, but that the brain was in a high state of inflammation. In further illustration of this point, we may here mention a ludicrous anecdote that came within our own knowledge. A foremast man on board his Majesty's ship —, in all requisite qualities a valuable seaman, while lying on his back in his hammock, almost in the last stage of existence from a disease produced by habitual drunkenness, was informed by the surgeon, that unless he refrained from drinking he would certainly die within a month. On the day following the surgeon was going on shore, and as he passed the patient's hammock, the latter thus addressed him: "I say, doctor, as you are going ashore, you may as well order my coffin, for I can't give up the grog."—*United Service Journal*.

## RECOLLECTIONS—SCENES IN CLARE.

(Continued from our 135th Number.)

Having our rods and tackling all complete, we started for the river, which we found in capital order; the water being of that fine beer-coloured tinge, on the clearing of a flood, which generally insures a good reception of our flies among the finny tribe. We fished from about two miles above Cri-bridge down to the sand hills of Mountrivers; and what a glorious day we had of it; such tumbling of trout, and the occasional rolling of a weighty fish, as the sharp whirr-rh-rh of our wheels, and the swift cutting through the water of the line, as the rod bent steadily to the strain, made us sure of a good one. What delight there is in gaffing a fine *peal*,\* as he shows his broad silvery side, exhausted by the skilful turnings to his opposing movements. I had on my foot-link two small *peal-fies*,† especial favourites of mine when the new fish

\* Salmon, salmon-peal, and white trout, force their way into the rivers from the sea, in great numbers, in the latter end of July, August, and September—particularly when the autumnal rains cause a greater flow of water. They are at that time in the highest season—being far more delicate of flavour, and of greater firmness than after their seasoning to the fresh water. They are then termed new fish; their scales being of a most brilliant silvery appearance. They rise very fearlessly and merrily at the artificial fly, taking it with great eagerness. The salmon that remain in the rivers after the spawning season, are termed red salmon, having undergone a considerable change in colour, flavour and appearance; and if detained beyond the usual periods of their return to the sea, become sickly, pine, and die. In April, and the early part of May, the salmon fry descend the rivers in immense shoals to the sea. The skerling of the Usk and Wye, in Monmouthshire, is the samlet or salmon-peal. Ray observes in his work, "Wisdom of God manifested in the Works of the Creation," "that salmon will yearly ascend rivers even to four and five hundred miles, only to cast their spawn, and secure it in banks of sand till the young be hatched and excluded, and then return to sea again." The same instinct prevails, in a singular manner, with the land-crab or violet-crab, (*Cancer ruricola*) which, in South America, inhabits mountainous woods contiguous to the sea. Annually, in prodigious numbers, they migrate to the sea, performing a wearisome journey of some months; and after washing off their spawn, set about on their return home, where they burrow in the mountains. It varies in colour, but is generally of a blackish violet; it is from four to six inches wide, and walks sideways, like the sea-crab. The flesh is considered good, notwithstanding it feeds on the highly poisonous berries of the *Hippomane Manchinella*, manchineel tree, being very fond of them. The wood of this tree is very beautiful, but the saw-dust is so acrid and poisonous, that sawyers and carpenters are forced to work upon the wood with gauze masks.

† Stretcher tied on treble F. hook; tipped with gold tinsel; tailed with guinea-fowl and golden pheasant's feathers; body, of

are in the river; and with them I fished during the morning without changing. The river, for nearly a mile to its mouth, runs through flat marshy meadows, having good deep water, and some excellent stands for a salmon or

orange silk, ribbed with gold twist, and a deep copper-coloured grouse hackle and jay's hackle, laid over together; winged with golden pheasant's feathers, Guinea fowl's, and brown turkey's feathers mixed, and with a few sprigs of the tail feather of the gold pheasant; head finished off with the whirl of a black ostrich feather. Dropper tied on treble F., tipped with gold twist, tailed with dark mallard's feather and blue macaw; body, Deoigh a dhu and coral-coloured mohair mixed, ribbed with gold twist; a deep morone coloured hackle or fiery brown, full under the shoulder, and winged with golden pheasant's feather, dark brown turkey feathers, and blue macaw. Deoigh a dhu or dubh, means fire black, or, termed by the natives, fiery brown; they are very partial to the colour. The coral colour is a kind of deep brick or cinnamon colour, being a most excellent shade either for lake or salmon-fishing. It is dyed with the rock border-moss, (*Parmelia Saxatilis*) found on stones and the bark of trees. It is called, in Irish, coral or coral. It dyes the French colour, Feuilletmort. The navel border-moss (*Parmelia Omphalodes*) dyes wool of a lasting dull crimson or purple colour, termed, in Irish, coreur. The country people use it in Scotland. The celebrated dyeing rock-moss (*Rocella tinctoria*) is a whitish lichen, growing upon rocks in the Canary and Cape Verde Islands, from whence it is imported, being named there Orseille, Orchill. It is found also in Guernsey and Portland Island. It is sold, as manufactured by the Dutch, in a kind of paste, called litmus, (orseille en pate) in square masses of about half an inch in breadth and thickness, being hard and brittle, having the appearance of a violet-coloured earth, with white spots. The thallus, or frond of the lichen, when moistened with a volatile alkali, dyes a beautiful but perishable purple, and gives a fine bloom to other colours. By the addition of a solution of muriate of tin, the colour becomes more permanent, but changes to a scarlet. M. du Fay says, that a solution of orchil in water, applied on cold marble, stains it of a durable and beautiful violet; or purplish blue colour, sinking deeply into the marble. It appears to make the marble more brittle. Litmus is used as a test for acids, the paper stained with it becoming red when an acid is present. The original colour is readily restored again by ammoniacal gas. Water absorbs nearly six hundred times its own weight of this gas, combining with it with explosive velocity, forming saturated ammonia. Copper is always detected by ammonia changing the water in which the copper exists to a beautiful blue. Prepared orchil is the substance principally made use of for colouring the spirits of thermometers. The solution of muriate of tin is a valuable mordant in dyeing in giving permanency to colours. Linen or woollen boiled in it, and then placed in a solution of cochineal, becomes a permanent scarlet, but if afterwards put into solution of potash it changes to a permanent crimson. Recent muriate of tin is a very delicate test of mercury.

Tartarindine (*Rinodina tartarea*) found on rocks, and collected by dyers, the rocks being scraped once in five years; when prepared by grinding, and the addition of ammonia and alum, is used to dye woollen yarn or give a bloom to other colours. It is called cudbear, the Lichen tartareus of Linnaeus.

In the transactions of the Royal Geographical Society of London, mention is made of a singular tree, growing in the Cocos or Keeling Isles, (situated in the Indian Ocean) whose root, when grated and infused in a lye of potash, yields a beautiful scarlet dye. Its fruit, when cut, resembles plum-cake, and is used as a pickle.

Ammonia is not only highly useful to the sportsman, chemically, in assisting to give brilliancy and permanency (in dyeing) to his salmon and trout colours, but it is also highly valuable to him medicinally, particularly in those feverish inflammatory attacks and colds, brought on by excessive fatigue and long continuance in damp clothes. Where medical aid cannot immediately be procured, (which at the time I allude to was frequently the case, no medical person being nearer than Ennis or Kildrush, the former being seventeen, the latter twelve miles distant) I have found very heavy colds, accompanied with severe shivering fits, when attended to early, quickly yield to the use of the solution of acetate of ammonia, (aqua acetatis ammoniac) known by the old name of spirit of mindererus—the sufferer being kept very warm, and taking half an ounce of the solution in a warm drink, every two or three hours, until a sensible perspiration is produced. Its effect proves more powerfully sudorific when preceded by an emetic—dissolving two grains of Tartarized antimony in four ounces of distilled water, and two table-spoonsful of the mixture being taken every half hour, until vomiting is caused,